space technology more advaced with the domestic resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which self-dependence in respect of space technology is proposed to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). The Research & Development efforts are a continuous process towards innovation and upgradation of technology. The main thrust of the Space Programme now is to provide for space segments for services relating to communication and remote sensing of earth resources for national developmental purposes. Successful indigenous development of operational Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites has already been achieved. An indigenous INSAT setellite is scheduled for launch this year. With the indigenous development of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to lunch IRS class satellites and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) to launch INSAT class satellites, the country would have attained self-dependence. The total self-sufficiency is expected to be achieved with the above programmes in about 5-6 years time.

[*English*]

Posts of Chief Vigilance Officers

4426. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Chief Vigilance Officers in various departments/public sector undertakings/nationalised banks/ autonomous organisations etc;

(b) the number of departments in which either the posts of Chief Vigilance Officers are vacant or ad hoc and temporary arrangements have been made; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Non-Cooking Pithead Coal

4427. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of non-cooking pithead coal during February 1992;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to meet the shortage;

(c) the stock of accumulated coal with Coal India as on February 10, 1992;

(d) since when this stock was accumulated;

(e) the stock released to be market during the last three years; and

(f) the guidelines issued by the Government to Coal India Ltd. regarding release of additional stock in view of the availability of the coal in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Government are not aware as of now of any shortage of non-cooking coal having occurred during February 1992.

(c) and (d). According to Coal India Limited, the total stock of coal with them as on 10.2.92 was 37.97 million tonnes. The